



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: *Phytophthora ramorum*

Date: March 15, 2004

Phytophthora ramorum, a destructive fungus that causes a disease called sudden oak death (SOD), ramorum blight, or ramorum dieback, was confirmed in a nursery in Los Angeles County, California on March 8, 2004. The nursery was sampled as part of the APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) national SOD survey. California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) plant pathology laboratory confirmed *P. ramorum* on six varieties of *Camellia*. The confirmed positive nursery in Los Angeles County owns 6 other nurseries in four states and ships plants to other areas of the country. PPQ is working with CDFA an investigation to determine the scope of the problem.

P. ramorum has also been confirmed at a nursery in San Diego County, California. In addition, suspect positives samples have also been found at 11 other nurseries in southern California's Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Testing to confirm the presence of *P. ramorum* in these additional nurseries should be completed during the week of March 15, 2004. Previously, *P. ramorum* had only been detected in northern California and a portion of Curry County, Oregon.

PPQ is working with CDFA which quarantined the Los Angeles County nursery on March 9, 2004. Traceback and traceforward investigations are being conducted and PPQ has mobilized its rapid response teams. There are no current regulatory treatments that are efficacious for treating plants against this disease.

Further information on SOD, including a list of counties in California and Oregon currently regulated due to SOD, is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>